



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRADE/CEFACT/2002/3
6 March 2002

Original : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

Eighth session, 27-30 May 2002

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

REPORT OF THE UN/CEFACT STEERING GROUP (CSG) MEETING

Geneva, 30 March 2001

(First meeting 2001)

* * *

Submitted by the UN/CEFACT Steering Group (CSG)

This document has been submitted by the UN/CEFACT Steering Group (CSG) for information as required under the UN/CEFACT procedures outlined in document TRADE/R.650. It is for information only. Items to be decided upon by the UN/CEFACT Plenary will be presented in a separate report from the Chairman to the CSG.

CSG Chairman:

Ray Walker, United Kingdom - UN/CEFACT Vice Chairman

CSG members present:

David Dobbing, Australia - CDWG Chairman

Harry Featherstone, United States

Pierre Georget, France – EWG Chairman

Peter Guldentops, ICC

Dariusz Haghighi-Talab, Islamic Republic of Iran

Paivi Lehtonen, Finland

Alexander de Lijster, Netherlands – ITPWG Chairman

Ovidiu Capitanu (replacing Onoriu Nan), Romania

Klaus-Dieter Naujok, Canada – TMWG Chairman

Grazyna Rzymkowska, Poland

Christina Wallén-Rahlén, Sweden

Peter Wilson, United Kingdom

Christoph Wolf, Germany

Ex-officio members and Rapporteurs present:

Mike Doran – BPAWG Chairman

Claude Hamon - Standards Liaison Rapporteur

Kenji Itoh, Japan - UN/CEFACT Vice Chairman

David Marsh, United Kingdom – LWG Chairman and Legal Liaison Rapporteur

Santiago Milà, IAPH/ Spain - UN/CEFACT Vice Chairman

Maxence Orthlieb - UNCTAD

Teresa Sorrenti, United States - UN/CEFACT Vice Chairman

Secretariat present:

Mario Apostolov

Hans Hansell

Markus Pikart

Apologies:

Dietmar Jost, WCO

Tahseen Ahmad Khan, India – Rapporteur for Asia

Common acronyms:

BPAWG – Business Process Analysis Working Group	OLA - Office of the Legal Adviser
CDWG – Codes Working Group	BSR - Basic Semantic Register
EWG – EDIFACT Working Group	BSU - Basic Semantic Unit
LWG - Legal Working Group	BAC - Business Advisory Council
TMWG – Techniques and Methodology Working Group	BOS - Business Object Summit
ebXML – Electronic Business XML initiative	ESCWA - UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
AFACT - Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business	ESCAP - UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
BPIM – Business Process Information Modelling	ECLAC - UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EBT – Electronic Business Team	

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1. The CSG Chairman welcomed the participants and introduced the main points for an agenda to be discussed during the meeting: (a) welcome and administrative arrangements; (b) ebXML initiative; (c) matters arising from document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/7: Realization of the UN/CEFACT Vision from an EBusiness Standards Strategy; (d) future meeting dates; (e) EWG – X 12 joint project; and (f) ITPWG's workshop and work programme.

WELCOME AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

2. The CSG Chairman welcomed the members of the third UN/CEFACT Steering Committee and, in particular, Ms. Grazyna Rzymkowska, the newly elected CSG member from Poland, and Mr. Ovidiu Capitanu from Romania, who was replacing Mr. Onoriu Nan for this particular meeting. Ms. Rzymkowska worked for the Central Bank of Poland, and had participated in the UN/CEFACT Plenary since 1997. The CSG Chairman informed the CSG about the election of a Nigerian representative, Mr. J.J. Olumekun, as a new Vice Chairman of UN/CEFACT. He noted that this was a very important step in UN/CEFACT's involvement in Africa. The CSG requested the secretariat to amend the CSG listserver according to the changes in UN/CEFACT and CSG officers.
3. The CSG requested Mr. Santiago Milà, working with the secretariat, to enquire into the possibility for UN/CEFACT officers, CSG members and the Chairpersons of working groups to have UN/CEFACT business cards and the rules for the use of the United Nations logo in letterheads, presentations and other occasions. The CSG Chairman noted that a track should be kept of the use of the logo.

THE EBXML INITIATIVE

4. The CSG Chairman informed the CSG of the developments in the ebXML initiative after the Vancouver meeting and about the preparations for the ebXML meeting in Vienna in May 2002. The technical architecture specification was posted on the ebXML Web site (http://www.ebXML.org/specdrafts/ebXML_TA_v1.0.4.pdf), while Microsoft and Hewlett Packard had provided the SOAP protocol as a contribution to ebXML on the same terms as to the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). Most of the ebXML specifications would be finalized before the Vienna meeting. The next steps would be to define who would maintain the specifications and continue the work on ebXML; should the ebXML products be established as a standard maintained by ISO or W3C; how could compliance

be ensured; how should the relationship of ebXML to the UN/CEFACT modelling work.

5. The CSG Chairman underlined that UN/CEFACT and OASIS had joint intellectual property rights (IPR) over the ebXML specifications. The CSG requested the CSG Chairman, working with the Electronic Business Team (EBT), composed of Messrs. Klaus-Dieter Naujok, David Dobbing, Peter Guldentops, Pierre Georget, Peter Wilson, Harry Featherstone and himself, to develop a position of UN/CEFACT for the ebXML executive meeting in Vienna. It was expected that the work on both the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology and the ebXML Core Components would remain in UN/CEFACT.

MATTERS ARISING FROM DOCUMENT TRADE/CEFACT/2001/7: REALIZATION OF THE UN/CEFACT VISION FROM AN E-BUSINESS STANDARDS STRATEGY

6. The CSG Chairman congratulated the authors of the Strategy Paper and Klaus-Dieter Naujok, Pierre Georget and Claude Hamon for their collaboration, which helped the March 2001 Plenary approve the paper. Consequently, the CSG would have to report next year on the realization of the strategy. He stressed that if UN/CEFACT wanted to adopt a new approach to e-business, it had to define partnerships in an open and transparent way and expand its activities. The CSG member from the United Kingdom noted that the next step would be to define the time scale for the realization of the new strategy. Some CSG members noted that it was difficult to define the time scale, but it was necessary to distinguish between short-term and long-term objectives of the strategy. The meeting reviewed and confirmed the terms of reference of the Electronic Business Team (EBT) drawn up at the November 2000 CSG meeting. The members of the EBT confirmed their intention to participate in its work, to follow closely the situation in the ebXML initiative, and to take further action as appropriate.

MEETING DATES

7. The CSG noted that the next meeting would take place in Geneva from 14 to 17 May 2001 as scheduled.
8. The CSG Chairman noted that 6 September was an official holiday in Geneva and this clashes with the scheduled meeting dates (3 - 6 September 2001) of the CSG. Three other locations (Washington, London and Rotterdam) were suggested. The CSG requested the CSG member from the Netherlands to investigate the possibility of hosting the CSG meeting on 3-6 September 2001 in Rotterdam, back-to-back with the EWG meeting. The secretariat pointed out its reservations regarding holding the CSG meetings outside Geneva, while the CSG Chairman stressed that there was an option to hold meetings outside Geneva if the CSG provided funding for one secretariat member and facilities on the same level as in the Palais des Nations in Geneva.
9. The CSG discussed the possibility of organizing the next 2002 UN/CEFACT Plenary session during the week of 13-17 May 2002, back-to-back with the Plenary of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and with a substantive meeting on trade facilitation, as proposed by the delegation of the United Kingdom to the UN/CEFACT Plenary on 28-29 March 2001. In case the UN/CEFACT Plenary was moved to May 2002, the CSG decided to hold its first meeting in 2002 on 25-28 February in Geneva. Meeting rooms in the Palais des Nations would also be booked for a parallel workshop on document N090 of the TMWG (the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology). The TMWG Chairman noted that the group could prepare a tutorial for the participants. He suggested basing the further work on the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology on an open software tool.
10. The BPAWG Chairman informed the CSG that the BPAWG plans to hold its workshop on 26 November 2001. He asked the CSG for steering on the planned cooperation between BPAWG and ebXML.

EWG – X 12 JOINT PROJECT

11. The CSG Chairman noted that the EBT should take into account the EWG – X12 initiative.

ITPWG

12. The Vice-Chairman of ITPWG noted that the outgoing ITPWG Chairman, Roger Black, made an important contribution in helping the Group get off the ground. He stressed that it was very important to put together a new work programme: a key issue for the forthcoming ITPWG workshop on 2-3 April 2001. Some items were already on the work programme, such as the Single Window Approach and the G7 initiative. He invited national delegations and businesses to help identify more experts in trade legislation, customs, border crossings and with documentary banking experience to collaborate with the Group. The CSG Chairman suggested that the ITPWG could contribute to bridging the work on trade procedures and electronic business, for example by preparing a Web version of the UN Layout Key. It was noted that many items on the work programme of the ITPWG could become part of the discussion at the CTIED – UN/CEFACT Forum on Trade Facilitation in May 2002.

13. The following dates for CSG meetings were noted:

14-17 May 2001, Geneva
3-6 September 2001, venue to be announced
19-22 November 2001, Geneva, to be confirmed
25-28 February 2002, Geneva
17 or 19 May 2002, Geneva, to be confirmed
